

Message Five

Reaching the Highest Point— Living Out and Working Out the New Jerusalem

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 2:19; Psa. 36:8-9; Rev. 2:7; 21:18-23; 22:1-5

- I. The Lord's recovery is to build up Zion as the reality of the Body of Christ by living out and working out the New Jerusalem—Psa. 132:13-16; Heb. 12:22-23:**
 - A. As the highlight and beauty of the holy city, Jerusalem, Zion typifies the overcomers as the high peak, the center, the uplifting, the strengthening, the enriching, the beauty, and the reality of the church—Psa. 48:2, 11-12; 50:2; 20:2; 53:6a; 87:2.
 - B. The overcomers as Zion are the reality of the Body of Christ and consummate the building up of the Body of Christ in the local churches to bring in the consummated holy city, New Jerusalem, the Holy of Holies as God's dwelling place, in eternity—Rev. 21:1-3, 16, 22.
- II. To live out the New Jerusalem is to grow up "into the Head" by the mingling of God with man, and to work out the New Jerusalem is to function "out from the Head" for the oneness of the Body of Christ—Lev. 2:4-5; John 6:57; 7:37; 17:21, 23; Eph. 4:3-4a, 11-16; Col. 2:19; 1 Cor. 3:6-12a; 10:3-4, 17; 12:12-13; Rev. 2:7; 21:9-11; 22:14, 17:**
 - A. God's desire is to gain the New Jerusalem through the precursor of the organic Body of Christ produced in the local churches—2:7; 12:5; 14:1-4.
 - B. Eventually, the local churches will be over; only the Body of Christ will remain forever as the unique mutual abode of God and man so that God and man are married together, mingled and incorporated together, to be one entity, a great corporate God-man—1:11-12; 21:2-3, 22; 22:17a.
 - C. Whatever is ascribed to the New Jerusalem should be both our personal and corporate experience for us to become the New Jerusalem and build the New Jerusalem by the mingling of God with man for the oneness of the Body of Christ to fulfill the eternal purpose of God.
- III. To live out the New Jerusalem is to become the New Jerusalem:**
 - A. We need to grow unto maturity to become the New Jerusalem as the ultimate consummation of the church—Matt. 16:18; Heb. 6:1a; 11:10, 16; Rev. 21:2-3, 9-11, 18-20; Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-5; 1 Cor. 3:9-10, 12; John 14:1-12, 23:
 1. God's thought is not merely that man would be saved, have his sins forgiven, and have God's life; God wants man to be transformed, to grow in life unto maturity, to let Christ be formed in Him, and to be conformed into the Lord's image; then man will be built up to become the New Jerusalem, the eternal paradise—2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:13-15; Gal. 4:19; Rom. 8:29; Rev. 2:7, and note 7.
 2. The regeneration of our spirit takes place in an instant, and the glorification of our body takes place in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:51-52), but the transformation of our soul (our mind, emotion, and will) is a long process, a long "tunnel," through which we must pass.
 3. If we are willing to grow in the divine life, the element of the divine life will increase in us and bring forth a metabolic change; thus, our inward disposition will be transformed, and our outward image will also be transformed to be the same as the image of the Lord—2 Cor. 3:18.

- B. We need to see how the New Jerusalem is applied to us; the New Jerusalem is not merely objective, nor is it merely something for the future, but it should be subjective in our daily experience—cf. Heb. 12:22a; *Hymns*, #824, stanza 7:
1. We need to apply the triune entry of the New Jerusalem—John 3:36a; Matt. 28:19; John 15:4a; 14:17, 23; Col. 2:7a; Eph. 3:16-19.
 2. We need to apply the triune constitution of the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:18-20, 3, 11, 22.
 3. We need to apply the triune existence of the New Jerusalem—Eph. 4:4-6; Gal. 2:20a; John 6:57b; Phil. 1:20-21; 1 Cor. 12:13; John 3:6b; Rev. 1:4b.
 4. We need to apply the triune living of the New Jerusalem—John 1:13; Eph. 4:18; 1 John 4:8, 16; 1:5, 2-3; Col. 2:9; 3:4; Rev. 2:7; Phil. 1:20; John 14:17a; 15:26; 16:13-15; Rom. 8:2; Rev. 22:17b; Phil. 1:19.
 5. We need to apply the triune enjoyment of the New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:23; 22:5; John 1:4; 8:12; 1 John 1:5; Rev. 21:11; 22:2, 14; Gen. 2:9; Rev. 22:1, 14, 17.
 6. We need to apply the triune expression of the New Jerusalem—21:9-14, 18-21; 22:1-2.

IV. To work out the New Jerusalem is to build the New Jerusalem:

- A. The highest point of the apostles' work is to work out the New Jerusalem:
1. According to the entire revelation of the New Testament, the unique goal of the Christian work should be the New Jerusalem:
 - a. We must take the goal of God's eternal economy—the New Jerusalem—as our unique and ultimate goal.
 - b. We should regard the local churches not as the goal but as a procedure to reach God's goal—v. 16; 3:7, 12.
 2. The apostles live what they build; they follow the pattern of the Lord Jesus as the first God-man, whose work was His living and whose move was His being:
 - a. With the Lord Jesus there was no difference between His life, His work, and His move.
 - b. The apostles as the duplication of Christ are the same; their living out the New Jerusalem is their working out, their building, the New Jerusalem.
- B. We need to work with God (1 Cor. 3:9) to carry out His divine building in three aspects for the accomplishment of God's eternal economy:
1. We need to establish and shepherd the churches by the pneumatic Christ, the Christ who is the life-giving Spirit, with His organic salvation—Acts 20:18-32; 1 Pet. 5:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 5:10.
 2. We need to build and constitute the Body of Christ by Christ as the sevenfold intensified Spirit with His sevenfold intensified organic salvation—Eph. 4:11-16; Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6.
 3. We need to adorn and consummate the New Jerusalem with God the Father as its golden base, God the Son as its pearl gates, and God the Spirit for its wall of precious stones, by drinking the Spirit, the flowing Triune God, as the river of water of life and eating Christ, the overcoming Lion-Lamb, as the tree of life with His rich and fresh supply—21:18, 21, 19; 22:1-2.
- C. All the elders and co-workers should no longer do their own work; they should only do the work of the New Jerusalem:
1. We must see that we should do only one work, which is to make God's chosen people regenerated ones, sanctified ones, renewed ones, transformed ones, conformed ones, and glorified ones; all those who will be in the New Jerusalem are this kind of people.

2. God proceeds step by step to make a chosen one of God a person who is regenerated, sanctified, renewed, transformed, conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God, and even glorified by God; in this way we go up level by level until we reach the highest point, where we become the same; there is no more flesh and no more natural being; all are in the spirit; all are in the kingdom of the heavens, and all are beings of the New Jerusalem; this is the highest point.